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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/639,441	08/15/2000	Douglas M. Okuniewicz		1938

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01/03/2003

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, BINH AN DUC

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 01/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

S.M.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/639,441

Applicant(s)

OKUNIEWICZ, DOUGLAS M.

Examiner

Binh-An D. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The specification must start on a new page, not in conjunction with the petition.

A complete continuation status of this application must be updated in the Cross-Reference section of the specification, e.g., a statement such as "This application is a Continuation-In-Part of patent application serial No. 08/994,075 filed December 19, 1997, now U.S. Patent 6,146,276; which is a Continuation-In-Part of patent application Serial No. 08/795,152 filed February 7, 1997, now U.S. Patent 5,908,354" should be cited. Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In line 2 of claims 1, 9, and 10 the semicolon (;) after the word "comprising" should be replaced with a colon (:).

In claim 1, line 24, the word "and" should be inserted after the semicolon.

In claim 2, line 2, the recited word "comprise" should be changed to "comprises".

In claim 10, line 21, the word "and" should be inserted after the semicolon.

Appropriate correction is required.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, the recited terms "said signal computing means" (line 17); "said selected event occurrence information signals" (line 18); and "said programmable event occurrence information signal computing device" (lines 22-24 and 27-28) lack antecedent basis.

In claim 3, the recited phrase "said electronic apparatus" (lines 4-5) lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 4, the recited phrase "the specific event" (line 5) lacks antecedent basis.

The scope of claim 9 is vague and indefinite since the printing and dispensing means of the claimed system have been omitted. Further, in claim 9, the recited term "said signal computing means" (line 17) lack antecedent basis.

In claim 10, the recited terms "said signal computing means" (line 15) and "said programmable event occurrence information signal computing device" (lines 20-21 and 24-25) lack antecedent basis.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application

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by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kelly et al. (5.816.918).

Kelly et al. teaches a printing and dispensing bonusing system for electronic gaming devices comprising: at least one detection means adapted for connection to an electronic apparatus, said detection means operative to detect selected event occurrences on an electronic apparatus and output event occurrence notification signals upon detection of an event (detecting inputs from player/operator) (6:64-7:51); event detection sampling means in information transmission connection with said detection means, said event detection sampling means operative to detect and receive occurrence notification signals from said detection means, analyze said event occurrence notification signals and output event occurrence information signals including information specifying selected event occurrences (7:19-8:30); event occurrence information signal computing means in information transmission connection with said event detection sampling means, said signal computing means operative to

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receive and analyze said selected event occurrence information signals output by said event detection sampling means and upon detection of selected event occurrence information signals, output command signals for initiating at least one bonus printing/dispensing device connected to said programmable event occurrence information signal computing device (7:52-9:8); said at least one bonus printing/dispensing device independent of a standard output device of the electronic gaming device and operative to accept command signals from a programmable event occurrence information signal computing device and to print and dispense bonus information and awards resulting from selected events occurring on the electronic gaming device whereby an operator/player of the electronic gaming device is awarded selected bonus information and awards (9:9-10:65); event detection sampling means comprises at least one input register operative to monitor said detection means such that any event occurrence on said electronic apparatus will be detected and stored for access by said event occurrence information signal computing means (storing input data in RAM); said event detection sampling means is operative to receive and analyze said event occurrence signals output by an electronic apparatus to determine the specific event that has occurred in an electronic apparatus, said event detection sampling means operative to store said event in data storage registers within said event detection sampling means; said event occurrence information signal computing means comprises a programmable microcontroller chip programmed to scan said data storage registers within said event detection sampling means and remove, identify and

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compare a selected event occurrence notification signal found within a selected data storage register of said event detection sampling means with an event occurrence table encoded into data storage registers within said event occurrence information signal computing means (see Figs. 5b, 6a, 6b, and 8a), said table corresponding to selected event occurrence information signals which in turn correspond to particular event occurrences on an electronic apparatus (12:41-14:10); said event occurrence information signal computing means further is operative to identify a match of an event occurrence information signal and an event occurrence number within said registers of said event occurrence information signal computing means, said event occurrence information signal computing means operative to output one of said command signals related to said event occurrence number to at least one of said connected bonus printing/dispensing device (10:26-52 and 12:12-30); said at least one bonus printing/dispensing device comprises at least one printing device operative to dispense a printed ticket or voucher representative of the selected bonus item; said at least one printing/dispensing device comprises at least one dispensing device which is operative to output bonus items include bonus tickets or promotional materials. See also, Figures 1-9b columns 1-42.

Note, the limitation of detection means comprises a plurality of optical isolators (claim 2) is inherent known. Further, regarding the using of different terms in claims 1-10 such as event detection sampling in information transmission connection with the detection means, and event occurrence information signal computing means in

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information transmission connection with the event detection sampling means, these are alternative languages for different functions of a conventional game detection units.

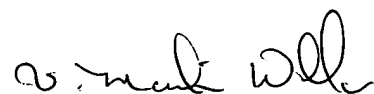
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Binh-An D. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-5713. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 703-308-4119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.

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